JS 44 (Rev. 10/20)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS			DEFENDANTS						
Claire Young			Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP						
(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Philadelphia (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)			County of Residence of First Listed Defendant (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.						
(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Addre	ress, and Telephone Number)		Attorneys (If Known)						
Scott M. Pollins, Po	ollins Law, 303 W. Lancaster Ave.	.,							
Ste. 1C, Wayne, PA	A 19087, 610-896-9909								
II. BASIS OF JURISDICT	ΓΙΟΝ (Place an "X" in One Box Only)		ΓIZENSHIP OF PI (For Diversity Cases Only)	RINCIPAL		Place an "X" in nd One Box for I			
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2 U.S. Government Defendant	4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)	Citize	en of Another State	2 2	Incorporated and Pr of Business In Ar		_ 5	5	
		1	en or Subject of a reign Country		Foreign Nation		6	6	
IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Pla	lace an "X" in One Box Only) TORTS	FC	ORFEITURE/PENALTY		or: Nature of St		STATUT		
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V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only) X 1 Original Proceeding 2 Removed from Proceeding 5 State Court 4 Reinstated or Reopened 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) 5 Transfer 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Litigation - Direct File									
VI. CAUSE OF ACTION Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity): ADAAA Brief description of cause:									
VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:							nt:		
VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE DOCKET NUMBER									
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	STONATURE OF AT	TORNEY	FRECORD						
RECEIPT # AMOU	INT APPLYING IFP		JUDGE	· **	MAG. JUD	GE			

Case 2:21-cv-03559-CDJ Document 1 Filed 08/10/21 Page 2 of 15

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Add	Address of Plaintiff: 928 Clinton St., Apt. 1, Philadelphia, PA 19	107				
	Address of Defendant: 1701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 191	03				
	Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: Philadelphia, PA					
REI	RELATED CASE, IF ANY:					
Case	Case Number: Judge: Date Terminate	d:				
Civi	Civil cases are deemed related when Yes is answered to any of the following questions:					
	Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?	No 🖊				
	2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit Yes No pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court?					
	3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court?					
	4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual?	No 🗸				
I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case this court except as noted above. DATE: O8/10/2021 Attorney-at-Law / ProSe Planniff Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)						
	Attorney-at-Law / PN Se Plantiff Atto					
CIVI	Attorney-at-Law / PN Se PlaNntiff Atto					
CIVI	CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only)					
A.	CIVIL: (Place a √ in one category only) A. Federal Question Cases: □ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts □ 2. FELA □ 2. Airplane Personal Injury □ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury □ 4. Antitrust □ 4. Marine Personal Injury □ 5. Patent □ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury □ 6. Labor-Management Relations □ 7. Civil Rights □ 7. Products Liability □ 8. Habeas Corpus □ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos	ntracts				
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A.	CIVIL: (Place a \(\) in one category only) A. Federal Question Cases: 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts 2. FELA 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury 4. Antitrust 5. Patent 6. Labor-Management Relations 7. Civil Rights 8. Habeas Corpus 9. Securities Act(s) Cases 10. Social Security Review Cases 11. All other Federal Question Cases 7. Products Liability - Asbestos 9. All other Diversity Cases (Please specify): 7. Products Liability - Asbestos (Please specify): 7. Products Liability - Asbestos (Please specify): 13. ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.) 1. Scott M. Pollins	ify):				
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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

CLAIRE YOUNG, : Civil Action No.

928 Clinton Street, Apartment 1

Philadelphia, PA 19107 :

Plaintiff,

:

v. : Complaint and Jury Demand

:

MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS, LLP, : 1701 Market Street : Dhiladalahia DA 10102

Philadelphia, PA 19103 :

Defendant. :

CIVIL ACTION

Plaintiff, Claire Young (hereinafter "Plaintiff"), by and through her attorneys, Koller Law, LLC and Pollins Law, brings this civil matter against Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP (hereinafter "Defendant"), for violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 ("ADA"), as amended, and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act ("PHRA"). In support thereof, Plaintiff avers as follows:

Counsel for Plaintiff

THE PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 2. Plaintiff is an adult individual residing at the above captioned address.
- 3. Upon information and belief, Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP is a multinational law firm with a headquarters at 1701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103.
- 4. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant employed managers, supervisors, agents, and employees who Plaintiff alleges had the authority to make decisions concerning Plaintiff's employment. In making said decisions, these individuals engaged in the pattern and practice of discriminatory treatment, which forms the basis of Plaintiff's allegations in the instant Complaint.
- 5. At all times relevant hereto, Defendant employed managers, supervisors, agents, and employees who acted directly or indirectly in the interest of the employer. In so acting, these individuals engaged in the pattern and practice of discriminatory treatment, which forms the basis of Plaintiff's allegations in the instant Complaint.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 6. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 7. The Court may properly maintain personal jurisdiction over Defendant because the Defendant's contacts with this state and this judicial district are sufficient for the exercise of jurisdiction and comply with traditional notions of fair play and substantial justice, thus satisfying the standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in <u>International Shoe Co. v. Washington</u>, 326 U.S. 310 (1945) and its progeny.
- 8. The Court may exercise original subject-matter jurisdiction over the instant action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343(a)(4) because it arises under the laws of the United States

and seeks redress for violations of federal law.

- 9. The Court may also maintain supplemental jurisdiction over state law claims set forth herein pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367(a) and Rule 18(a) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure because they are sufficiently related to one or more claims within the Court's original jurisdiction that they form part of the same case or controversy.
- 10. Venue is properly laid in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 1391(b)(1) and 1391(b)(2) because the Defendant is located in this judicial district and because all of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district.

EXHAUSTION OF ADMINISTRATIVE REMEDIES

- 11. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 12. Plaintiff exhausted her administrative remedies under the ADA and the PHRA.
- 13. Plaintiff timely filed Charges of Discrimination ("Charge") with the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") alleging disability discrimination and retaliation against Defendant.
- 14. The Charges were assigned Charge Numbers 530-2020-00407 and 530-2021-01608 and were dual filed with the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission ("PHRC").
- 15. The EEOC issued Plaintiff a Dismissal and Notice of Rights ("Right to Sue") for both Charges on May 17, 2021. Plaintiff received the notice by mail.
- 16. Plaintiff files the instant Complaint within ninety (90) days of her receipt of the Right to Sues in this matter.
- 17. Plaintiff has exhausted her administrative remedies as to the allegations of this Complaint.

MATERIAL FACTS

PLAINTIFF'S EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 18. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 19. On November 20, 2017, Defendant hired Plaintiff as an Accounts Payable Clerk.
- 20. Plaintiff was well qualified for her position and performed well.
- 21. On March 11, 2019, Plaintiff became an Administrative and Database Assistant.
- 22. Plaintiff was well qualified for her position and performed well.

PLAINTIFF SUFFERED A SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITION THAT RESULTED IN HER BECOMING DISABLED

- 23. In April 2019, Plaintiff suffered a large left parietal intracerebral hemorrhage (hemorrhagic stroke). She was diagnosed with an arteriovenuous malformation ("AVM") brain, a disability under the ADA.
- 24. Dr. Omar Choudhri, Neurosurgeon, immediately placed Plaintiff on a medical leave of absence.
- 25. Plaintiff underwent placement of right frontal external ventricular drain, resection of AVM in interval fashion, evacuation of hematoma and intraoperative angiogram conducted by Dr. Choudhri.

$\frac{\text{PLAINTIFF WAS RELEASED TO RETURN TO WORK WITH A REASONABLE}}{\text{ACCOMMODATION}}$

- 26. On July 3, 2019, Dr. Choudhri released Plaintiff to return to work with the reasonable accommodations of working part-time (20-25 hours per week) and working remotely.
- 27. Plaintiff could still perform the essential functions of her position with this reasonable accommodation and it did not provide an undue hardship for Defendant.

DEFENDANT REFUSED TO ACCOMMODATE PLAINTIFF TO WORK REMOTELY

- 28. Plaintiff sent Dr. Choudhri's note to Stacey Brady, Leave Coordinator.
- 29. Ms. Brady informed Plaintiff that Defendant could not accommodate her to work remotely.
- 30. Subsequently, Plaintiff's fiancé contacted Monica Rodan, Director of Training & Staff Operations, and Plaintiff's direct supervisor, regarding Plaintiff's return to work status, but was informed that he and Plaintiff were only allowed to communicate with Ms.

 Brady.
- 31. Defendant was insistent that it was necessary for Plaintiff to return to its location to work in person.
- 32. However, it was not necessary for Plaintiff to work at Defendant's location in person as all of her job duties were performed on the computer, which she could perform remotely.

HUMAN RESOURCES REFUSED TO PROVIDE PLAINTIFF A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION, AND INSTEAD PLACED PLAINTIFF ON A MEDICAL LEAVE OF ABSSENCE

- 33. On August 15, 2019, Plaintiff had a phone call with Ms. Brady and Huda Goldman, Human Resources Director.
- 34. During this phone call, Ms. Brady and Ms. Goldman denied Plaintiff's request for the reasonable accommodation of working from 10 am to 12 pm at Defendant's Center City Philadelphia office and from 2 pm to 5 pm remotely.
- 35. Plaintiff explained to them that Dr. Choudhri stated that she could not work at Defendant's location for more than two (2) hours at a time.
- 36. However, they proceeded to cut Plaintiff off and told her that she could rest on a couch in Defendant's dining room.

37. When Plaintiff informed them that this was not a viable option due to her disability and that Dr. Choudhri would not release her to return without her requested accommodations, they stated that the only accommodation Defendant could provide her was to place her on an unpaid leave of absence.

PLAINTIFF CONTINUED TO UPDATE DEFENDANT REGARDING HER DISABILITY AND NEED FOR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION, BUT DEFENDANT CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO ACCOMMODATE HER

- 38. Plaintiff continued to provide all of her medical documentation to Ms. Brady as she was directed, but Defendant frequently accused her of being unresponsive and not providing it with her medical updates.
- 39. Plaintiff had three (3) phone conversations with Ms. Goldman and Ms. Brady since she had been cleared by Dr. Choudhri to return to work with medical restrictions, but they continued to refuse to provide her with her requested reasonable accommodation.
- 40. Due to Defendant's lack of action, Plaintiff requested that Ms. Goldman and Ms. Brady provide her with Defendant's proposals for a reasonable accommodation in writing before they had another phone conversation.
- 41. However, they refused to do so, and stated that they would only provide Plaintiff with documentation after phone conversations were held.

PLAINTIFF AGAIN REQUESTED A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION AND COMPLAINED THAT DEFENDANT WAS FORCING HER TO NEGOTIATE WITH HER HEALTH

42. On September 4, 2019, Plaintiff emailed Ms. Goldman and Ms. Brady that her request for reasonable accommodations continued to be to work part-time hours and remotely.

- 43. Plaintiff informed them that she could report to Defendant's Center City Philadelphia office for planned meetings and in-person check-ins, but that she could not report to work at the office on a part-time basis.
- 44. Plaintiff also stated that she believed Ms. Goldman and Ms. Brady were forcing her to negotiate with her health by refusing to provide her with a reasonable accommodation.
- 45. Ms. Goldman responded by insinuating that Plaintiff was trying to not engage in the interactive process.
- 46. Plaintiff responded that this was not the case.

DEFENDANT OFFERED PLAINTIFF A DIFFERENT POSITION AND ACCOMMODATIONS THAT DIRECTLY VIOLATED PLAINTIFF'S MEDICAL RESTRICTIONS

- 47. On September 5, 2019, Ms. Goldman informed Plaintiff that Defendant could provide her with an accommodation by transferring her to an Accounts Receivable Assistant position.
- 48. However, Ms. Goldman stated that Plaintiff would be required to report to Defendant's office three (3) times a month for the full day, with two (2) of those days being consecutive.
- 49. They also scheduled a phone conversation to discuss it on September 11, 2019.
- On September 11, 2019, Plaintiff had a phone conversation with Ms. Goldman and Ms.
 Brady.
- 51. They stated that Defendant could accommodate Plaintiff by transferring her to the Accounts Receivable Assistant position, but they could not answer Plaintiff's questions regarding the specific accommodation they intended to offer her, the essential functions of the position or why she could not work remotely in her current position.

- 52. It was not until September 20, 2019 that Ms. Goldman followed-up the September 11, 2019, phone conversation with an email.
- 53. Defendant's proposed accommodations were in direct violation of Plaintiff's medical restrictions, including, but not limited to, requiring her to work 32 hours per week and work a full work day at the office three (3) day per month.
- 54. Ms. Goldman stated that working out of the office was essential because Plaintiff needed to perform mail duties.
- 55. Upon information and belief, mail duties were not an essential function of the database assistant position.
- 56. In her explanation for why the firm could not accommodate Plaintiff in her prior database assistant role, Ms. Goldman cited security concerns, project work, delivering mail and answering phone calls as the reason why Plaintiff could not work remotely in her position.
- 57. None of these job duties had previously been essential to the database assistant position.
- 58. In addition, Ms. Goldman's response did not clearly explain why Plaintiff could not be accommodated to work remotely in her current position.

<u>DEFENDANT CONTINUED TO REFUSE TO PROVIDE PLAINTIFF WITH A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION</u>

- 59. On September 24, 2019, Plaintiff responded to Ms. Goldman's email and informed her that she could not perform the job of Accounts Receivable Assistant because the specifics were in direct violation of her medical restrictions.
- 60. Plaintiff also complained as to why Defendant refused to accommodate Plaintiff to work remotely in her current position.

- 61. However, Defendant did not respond to Plaintiff's inquiries regarding its refusal to provide her with the requested reasonable accommodation.
- 62. Defendant continued to refuse to accommodate Plaintiff even though she was able to perform the essential functions of her job.

PLAINTIFF FILED A CHARGE OF DISCRIMINATION WITH THE EEOC

- 63. On October 21, 2019, Plaintiff filed a Charge of Discrimination with the EEOC alleging discrimination based on her disability, failure to accommodate and retaliation for requesting an accommodation.
- 64. Defendant continued to deny Plaintiff's requests for a reasonable accommodation.

PLAINTIFF SUBMITTED ANOTHER REQUEST FOR A REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION, BUT WAS IGNORED BY DEFENDANT

- 65. In January 2020, Plaintiff submitted another medical note from Dr. Choudhri requesting the reasonable accommodation for her to work part-time from home until she felt physically able to work full time from home.
- 66. Dr. Choudhri's note also stated that if Plaintiff was required to attend a mandatory meeting at Defendant, she could only be there for a maximum of two (2) hours per day before returning home to rest.
- 67. Defendant did not even respond to Plaintiff's request for the reasonable accommodation.

DEFENDANT ALLOWED NON-DISABLED EMPLOYEES TO WORK FROM HOME DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC, WHICH WAS THE ACCOMMODATION PLAINTIFF HAD BEEN REQUESTING, BUT WAS REFUSED

- 68. In mid-March 2020, Defendant directed its employees to work remotely due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 69. This was the specific accommodation Plaintiff requested, and it showed that Defendant could have accommodated Plaintiff with remote working in 2019 and earlier in 2020.

<u>DEFENDANT CONTINUED TO DENY PLAINTIFF'S REQUESTED REASONABLE</u> <u>ACCOMMODATION</u>

70. Defendant continued to deny Plaintiff's accommodation request and did not engage in the requisite interactive process.

DEFENDANT TERMINATED PLAINTIFF DUE TO HER POSITION ALLEGEDLY BEING ELIMINATED DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

- 71. On December 9, 2020, Plaintiff contacted Ms. Goldman and Ms. Brady inquiring if she was able to resume her position remotely.
- 72. On December 11, 2020, Ms. Goldman responded to Plaintiff that her position had been eliminated and that Defendant did not and would have not have any administrative openings.
- 73. Ms. Goldman cited the COVID-19 pandemic as the reason for this.
- 74. Upon information and belief, Defendant had multiple administrative openings that Plaintiff was well qualified for and could perform.
- 75. Defendant discriminated against Plaintiff due to her disability, denied her a reasonable accommodation, denied her work positions, and retaliated against her for requesting a reasonable accommodation and filing a Charge of Discrimination with the EEOC, all in violation of the ADA and the PHRA.

COUNT I – DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION <u>ADAAA and PHRA</u>

- 76. Plaintiff incorporates the preceding paragraphs as if fully set forth herein.
- 77. Plaintiff is a "qualified individual with a disability" as that term is defined under the ADA, as amended, and the PHRA because Plaintiff has, or had at all times relevant hereto, a disability that substantially limits or limited one or more major life activities or because Plaintiff had a record of such an impairment or because Plaintiff was regarded as

- and/or perceived by Defendant and its agents as being disabled.
- 78. Plaintiff was qualified to perform the job.
- 79. Plaintiff was subject to an adverse employment action, including, but not limited to termination.
- 80. Circumstances indicated that Plaintiff's disabilities were the reason for the adverse employment action.
- 81. Defendant did not have a legitimate non-discriminatory reason for terminating Plaintiff.
- 82. Plaintiff's disabilities motivated Defendant's decision to terminate Plaintiff.
- 83. The purported reason for Defendant's decision is pretextual.
- 84. Others similarly situated but outside of Plaintiff's protected class were treated more favorably.
- 85. The above actions by Defendant also constitute a failure to accommodate and a failure to engage in the required interactive process.
- 86. As a result of Defendant's unlawful disability discrimination, Plaintiff has suffered damages as set forth herein.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks the damages set forth in the Prayer for Relief clause of this Complaint, *infra*.

COUNT II – RETALIATION ADAAA and PHRA

- 87. Plaintiff incorporates all the above paragraphs as if they were set forth at length herein.
- 88. Plaintiff engaged in activity protected by the ADA and PHRA when she requested a reasonable accommodation and complained of discrimination externally by reporting the discrimination to the EEOC.
- 89. Thereafter, Defendant took adverse employment actions against Plaintiff, including, but

not limited to, termination.

90. There exists a causal connection between Plaintiff's participation in protected activity and the adverse employment action.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff seeks the damages set forth in the Prayer for Relief clause of this Complaint, *infra*.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, Claire Young, requests that the Court grant her the following relief against Defendant:

- (a) Compensatory damages;
- (b) Punitive damages;
- (c) Emotional pain and suffering;
- (d) Reasonable attorneys' fees;
- (e) Recoverable costs;
- (f) Pre and post judgment interest;
- (g) An allowance to compensate for negative tax consequences;
- (h) A permanent injunction enjoining Defendant, its directors, officers, employees, agents, successors, heirs and assigns, and all persons in active concert or participation with it, from engaging in, ratifying, or refusing to correct, employment practices which discriminate in violation of the ADA and the PHRA.
- (i) Order Defendant to institute and implement, and for its employees, to attend and/or otherwise participate in training programs, policies, practices and programs which provide equal employment opportunities;
- (j) Order Defendant to remove and expunge, or to cause to be removed and expunged, all negative, discriminatory, and/or defamatory memoranda and documentation from Plaintiff's record of employment, including, but not limited, the pre-textual reasons cited for its adverse actions, disciplines, and termination; and
- (k) Awarding equitable and/or injunctive relief as permitted by law, equity and the federal statutory provisions sued hereunder, pursuant to Rules 64 and 65 of the

Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.

JURY TRIAL DEMAND

Demand is hereby made for a trial by jury as to all issues.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that to the best of my knowledge and belief the above matter in controversy is not the subject of any other action pending in any court or of a pending arbitration proceeding, nor at the present time is any other action or arbitration proceeding contemplated.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

KOLLER LAW, LLC

Date: August 10, 2021 By: /s/ David M. Koller

David M. Koller (Pa. Atty. Id. No. 90119) 2043 Locust Street, Suite 1B Philadelphia, PA 19103 215-545-8917 davidk@kollerlawfirm.com

POLLINS LAW

By: /s/ Scott M. Pollins

Scott M. Pollins (Pa. Atty. Id. No. 76334) 303 West Lancaster Avenue, Suite 1C Wayne, PA 19087 610-896-9909 scott@pollinslaw.com

Counsel for Plaintiff